

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A teething toy, comprising:
a book-like structure having a plurality of leaves; and
a teething element that is attached to at least one of said leaves, said teething element being fabricated from a resilient, elastomeric non-toxic material and being sized and dimensioned to be comfortably inserted into an infant's mouth for teething purposes, said teething element further having no sharp edges capable of injuring an infant, whereby it will be safe for an infant or small child to place his or her mouth on said teething element.
2. (Previously Amended) A teething toy according to claim 1, further comprising artwork that is provided on at least one of said leaves.
3. (Previously Amended) A teething toy according to claim 2, wherein said teething element is integrated into said artwork so that said teething element appears to be part of said artwork.
4. (Original) A teething toy according to claim 1, wherein said at least one leaf has a corner area, and wherein said teething element is secured to said corner area.
5. (Original) A teething toy according to claim 1, wherein said teething element is shaped so as not to substantially extend outwardly from said leaves.
6. (Previously Amended) A teething toy according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said leaves comprises a cloth material.

7. (Original) A teething toy according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of said teething elements are provided.
8. (Original) A teething toy according to claim 1, wherein said teething element is textured so as to provide teething relief to an infant or small child when chewed on.
9. (Original) A teething toy according to claim 1, wherein said teething element is sized and configured so as not to be capable of entering and penetrating to its full depth an opening in a test fixture that is 30 mm in depth, 35 mm in height, and 50 mm in width, with the ends of the width being curved at a radius of 17.5 mm.
10. (Original) A teething toy according to claim 1, wherein said teething element is sized and configured so as not to enter and penetrate to its full depth a cylindrical cavity in a test fixture that has a depth of 30 mm, and a circular opening having a diameter of 42.7 mm
11. (Original) A teething toy according to claim 1, wherein said teething element is secured to one of said leaves by a tether.
12. (Original) A teething toy according to claim 1, wherein said teething element is positioned in a location so as to also be functional as a gripping aid for aiding users to turn at least one of the leaves.
13. (Previously Amended) A teething toy according to claim 12, wherein said teething element is weighted to keep the book-like structure from closing when it is laid open.
14. (Currently Amended) A book-like article for small children, comprising:
 - a plurality of leaves;
 - binding means for binding said leaves together as a book; and
 - elastomeric gripping means, secured near an outer edge of at least one of said leaves, for providing enhanced grippability to the leaf, said gripping means comprising teething means for

permitting an infant to safely teethe thereon, said teething means being fabricated from a resilient, elastomeric nontoxic material and being sized and dimensioned to be comfortably inserted into an infant's mouth for teething purposes and further having no sharp edges capable of injuring an infant, whereby a small child will be able to teethe and to easily turn the leaves of the book-like article like a book.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A book-like article according to claim 14, wherein said gripping means is secured near a corner portion of the leaf.

17. (Original) A book-like article according to claim 14, wherein said gripping means is fabricated from a resilient material that is nontoxic.

18. (Currently Amended) A book-like article for small children, comprising:

a plurality of leaves;
binding means for binding said leaves together as a book; and
elastomeric leaf weight means, secured near an outer edge of at least one of said leaves,
for providing enhanced weight to the outer edge area of the leaf, said leaf weight means comprising teething means for permitting an infant to safely teethe thereon, said teething means being fabricated from a resilient elastomeric nontoxic material and being sized and dimensioned to be comfortably inserted into an infant's mouth for teething purposes and further having no sharp edges capable of injuring an infant, whereby the book-like article will function as a teether, said leaf weight means providing sufficient weight whereby and said book-like article will -be discouraged from closing when it is laid open in a given position.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) A book-like article according to claim 18, wherein said leaf weight means is secured near a corner portion of the leaf.

21. (Original) A book-like article according to claim 18, wherein said leaf weight means is fabricated from a resilient material that is nontoxic.

22. (Currently Amended) A teething toy according to claim 18, wherein said leaf weight means comprises a teether element that is fabricated from a nontoxic resilient elastomeric material.

23. (Original) A teething toy according to claim 22, wherein said teether element has a textured surface thereon for facilitating teething.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A teething toy according to claim 24, wherein said teething means has a textured surface thereon for facilitating teething.

26. (Previously Added) A teething toy, comprising:

a book-like structure having a plurality of leaves, said leaves being fabricated from a material comprising cloth; and

teething means attached to at least one of said leaves, said teething means being fabricated from a non-toxic resilient elastomeric material and being sized and dimensioned to be comfortably inserted into an infant's mouth for teething purposes, said teething means further having no sharp edges capable of injuring an infant, whereby it will be safe for an infant or small child to place his or her mouth on said teething means.

27. (Previously Added) A teething toy according to claim 26, wherein said teething means is fabricated from a nontoxic resilient elastomeric material.

28. (Previously Added) A teething toy according to claim 27, wherein said teething means has a textured surface thereon for facilitating teething.

29. (Previously Added) A teething toy according to claim 26, wherein further comprising artwork that is provided on at least one of said leaves.

30. (Previously Added) A teething toy according to claim 29, wherein said teething means is integrated into said artwork so that said teething means appears to be part of said artwork.

31. (Previously Added) A teething toy according to claim 26, wherein a plurality of said teething means are provided.

32. (Previously Added) A teething toy according to claim 26, wherein said teething means is textured so as to provide teething relief to an infant or small child when chewed on.

33. (Previously Added) A teething toy according to claim 26, wherein said teething means is sized and configured so as not to be capable of entering and penetrating to its full depth an opening in a test fixture that is 30 mm in depth, 35 mm in height, and 50 mm in width, with the ends of the width being curved at a radius of 17.5 mm.

34. (Previously Added) A teething toy according to claim 26, wherein said teething means is sized and configured so as not to enter and penetrate to its full depth a cylindrical cavity in a test fixture that has a depth of 30 mm, and a circular opening having a diameter of 42.7 mm

35. (Previously Added) A teething toy according to claim 26, wherein said teething means is secured to one of said leaves by a tether.